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ON THE

SCIENCES OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

AUDI ALTERAM PARTEM.

THIS PAPER WAS PROPOSED TO BE READ BEFORE THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL SCIENCE, ON THE 12TH OCTOBER, 1857, AT BIRMINGHAM,

BY

W. PARKER, M.R.C.S., L.A.C.,

AND WAS REJECTED BY THE COMMITTE OF THE FOURTH DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH.

PRICE FOURPENCE.

IN SUPPORT OF THE VIEWS SET FORTH,

THE FOLLOWING, BY THE SAME, ARE ADDUCED:

1.	The PHYSIOLOGICAL and SCIENTIFIC TREATMENT of CHOLERA	1849.	Price 1s.
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£100 Reward for Refutation has been offered.

The Editor of the *Medical Times and Gazette* admits the soundness of the new views, by saying that "Mr. PARKER is perfectly safe in offering this Reward."

> "THE LORD OF HOSTS HATH PURPOSED IT.
> TO STAIN THE PRIDE OF ALL GLORY, AND TO BRING INTO
> CONTEMPT ALL THE HONOURABLE OF THE EARTH." *Isaiah.*

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MDCCCLVII.

INTRODUCTION.

The brevity of twenty minutes allowed for a paper to enter on important scientific subjects for public health, will permit of further extension: that can be said in an introduction, in few remarks, on the exclusion, and as to what may be considered superstition in the medical sciences.

A question arises, whether men's (bad) habits, in the case of public health, are to be encouraged?—invitation being circulated in the medical press to create discussion and acceptation of incontrovertible and beneficial views in medical sciences, for the public health.

The belief, reliance, and talk of things that do not exist and cannot be seen or experienced, as Lavoisier's views of heat and of nutrition by the union of carbon and oxygen, are obviously superstition. No one has seen the heat produced, and no one has experienced the nutrition from bodies, as clay, flint, glass, or charcoal, that largely contain these elements. The chemical phenomenon after a candle has been burnt in oxygen or in atmospheric air, is no proof, having no collateral evidence and no practical illustrations of heat and nutrition; therefore the theory, the basis of present medical sciences, is entirely superstition—like the homœopathic practitioner who prescribes for a patient, and the shopman who supplies the globules to the patient, neither party knows the existence of the medicine in the globules; no chemical analysis can prove it, the globules being prepared by a third irresponsible party, apart from the prescriber and seller, who cannot vouch for the fulfilment of the prescription. Homœopathy is, therefore, practically superstition. Imagination of effects is all that can be adduced, the diet being the most probable cause of cure, and neglect of proper medicines being often the cause of death.

Mesmerism being only dealt out in the general to the rich, is sufficient for its expulsion, besides its inapplicability in all cases of disease to which human beings are heir. Its tenets may be right, as regards electric action on the blood in order to increase the temperature, but this electric action, or heat, is to be obtained in marked degree in all cases by the use of tea or coffee, and nitrogenous medicines, which are available and practical by every denomination of practitioners.

Hydropathy is also limited to the wealthy and aged, and not employed for the infant; those who have indulged at the table, or have been exposed to the vicissitudes of climate or weather, are the votaries to the craft. Self-denial seems the chief means to be observed; the use of cold water stays the stomach and quiets the nervous system. The water establishments are supported by persons who have not self-denial at their own command, therefore the system is best carried out by another in the shape of a medical adviser, with all the attendant dangers and chances of cure.

The subjects of cataract, hernia, stricture, cholera, the deaf and dumb, and the element nitrogen, are particularly pointed out as objects of grievous errors which scientific men are bound to surmount. Although this paper is not considerd suitable for the association, yet other scientific societies are now invited to criticise and refute the views. There are too many great and important truths set forth to allow of silence.

ON THE SCIENCES OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

◆

THE sciences of medicine and surgery are known to us through the knowledge of physiology, which is acquired through the assistance of analogy, anatomy, and chemistry.

Physiology treats of intimate knowledge of things, whereby we adapt their uses.

Analogy treats of like things, as tea and coffee are allied to the blood.

Anatomy treats of divisional parts of things.

Chemistry treats of constituents of things.

Tradition speaks of received notions without the knowledge of the above branches of science.

We have false and true traditions.

What constitutes the knowledge of the medical sciences?

The ground work of these sciences must be in the knowledge of the uses of the materials of the globe. These materials are found beneficial as far as physiology, analogy, anatomy, and chemistry have revealed to us their fitting purposes. Without the knowledge of these branches of the sciences our practice would be quackery.

The materials most common to our use are the atmosphere, tea, coffee, cocoa, Irish moss, &c., as food—ammonia, quinine, morphia, strychnine, &c., as medicines, or nitrogenous vegetables, or compounds.

By the aid of chemistry, these materials have been found to be composed of the same elements as our blood, viz.—carbon, oxygen, hydrogen, and nitrogen, in various quantities.

By the aid of analogy, the human blood is supplied with renovating properties from these nitrogenous substances.

By the aid of anatomy, curative processes are expedited.

By the aid of physiology, suitable food and medicine are selected in health and disease.

False traditions in medical sciences cannot be tolerated, as follows:

1. Lavoisier's notions of heat and nutrition
2. Galen's notions of the flow of the blood.
3. Dr. S. Johnson's notions of the state of the deaf and dumb being hopeless.
4. Of the incurability of cholera.
5. Of the deficiency of cow pox to mitigate, or prevent, small pox.

Chemistry having ascertained the existence of elements in the materials, it next becomes the part of the physiologist to appropriate the uses of these elements as far as experience would direct him; if their uses have been misapplied or neglected, surely great fault must arise in the practice of the sciences.

The discovery, in 1772, of the element nitrogen in our atmosphere, and its uses not being yet appropriated, will appear a great blot on medical science.

The misapplication of the uses of the elements carbon and oxygen, in producing heat and nutrition, are also great blots on medical science. Because such a man as Lavoisier, about 70 years ago, is supposed to have given such adaptations, are we bound by respect to antiquity to perpetuate such great blunders? Certainly not.

Galen's teaching that the arterial system was part of the respiratory system—consequently air must be in the arteries—was dogmatical, bigotry, and false. He always found blood in the arteries; and no one has found heat or nutrition to be effected by the union of carbon or oxygen. These theories, or traditions, were, and are, dogmatical, bigoted, and false.

The facts of carbonic acid gas causing the fall of quicksilver in the thermometer, and causing the heated body in fever and in warm weather to be cooled, are too palpable to be lost sight of, or to be highly esteemed for contrary or imaginary effects.

The facts of nitrogenous vegetables and medicines being employed to renovate the fatigued body and mind, and to restore health, are too palpable to be cast aside and to be thought nothing of. Our daily foods being found analogous to the human blood, are too palpable to be cast aside. "The blood is the life." The blood is the means of healing and curing all diseases and injuries; the blood must, therefore, be preserved in a normal state.

We are in the age of thinking and acting without being bound down by a state, colleges, or bigotry, or superstition, or traditions, in matters of facts and of science. We adduce examples in physiology, in analogy, in chemistry, and in anatomy.

In Physiology. In physiology of tea, coffee, blood, brain, and bile; that tea and coffee are foods of ordinary use, with much importance being attached to them, because they supply the blood with ingredients that are allied to the blood, brain, and bile.

In Analogy. In analogy, that similitude exists between food, medicine, and blood; that the aqueous humour dissolves the lens in the adult as well as in the infant; and that the cure of cholera is effected by the uses of nitrogenous food and medicine. (See hereafter.)

In Chemistry. In chemistry, the discovery of alkaloids in tea, coffee, bark, opium, &c., and of similar ingredients in the brain, bile, and blood, and also of ammonia escaping largely from cholera patients. (See Liebig's *Animal Chemistry.)*

In Anatomy. In anatomy, that the transparent cornea, aqueous humour, capsule of the lens, and the lens, can be perfo-

Cataract. rated frequently with a needle, without pain and without danger; the parts being less vascular than other external parts of the body.

Hernia. That hernia consists of soft parts of different degrees of organization. The external parts are the skin, cellular tissue, and fat, and are little organized. The internal parts are the lining membrane (peritoneum) of the abdomen and of the bowels, and the bowels themselves. These are much organized.

Arteries are contingencies to hernia.

The omentum, if any, is distinct from the gut; is less organized and less dangerous.

Stricture.

That stricture in urethra is caused by inflammation of soft parts adjacent and external to the urethra; viz., ligaments, muscular or membranous portions, which suspend and move the parts. The urethra is not generally found diseased, or obstructed after death; but a thickening, externally, is invariably found before and after death. The seat of stricture is on the muscular or membranous parts. Sir C. Bell supports this view. (See his *Anatomy*, vol. iii., page 410.)

Physiology and Anatomy.
1. Cataract.

Physiology and anatomy teach us, that a safe operation for cataract, by solution of the lens through the anterior chamber, can be performed without recourse to a difficult and hazardous operation, or operations which are now performed.

Physiology and Anatomy.
2. Hernia.

Physiology and anatomy teach us, that safe reduction of hernia, by the application of cold water and the taxis, can be performed without recourse to the difficult and hazardous operations with the knife, which are now performed.

Physiology and Anatomy.
3. Stricture.

Physiology and anatomy teach us, that a safe cure of stricture in urethra, by means of topical applications and internal medicines, can be performed without recourse to the catheter and the knife. Mr. Syme supports this view in his writings.

Physiology and Analogy.
4. Cholera.

Physiology and analogy teach us, that cholera has been successfully cured by giving nitrogenous medicines and food, which supply the loss or waste of ammonia that has been largely eliminated in this dire disease, where no organic disease exists.

Physiology and Anatomy.
5. Deaf and Dumb.

Physiology and anatomy teach us, that the deaf and dumb can be cured where disease exists. This disease has been palpably spoken of by men of distinction—Messrs. Pilcher and Levison—before Medical Societies.

Physiology, Analogy, and Experience.
6. Nitrogen.

Physiology, analogy, and experience teach us, that the element nitrogen is the source of heat in the animal economy and source of nutrition in the animal and vegetable kingdoms. Dr. Carpenter and Professor Voelcker, in their writings, support these views. Let it be asked, Has anyone refuted them? They are constantly practised by men ignorantly.

Other important and minor ailments, to which human beings are heirs, can be illustrated; but these might suffice for the present.

New Views.

We now adduce examples of new views of practice of medicine and surgery, with comment on present views, without going into the ordinary minute explanation, as in books displayed, as follow:

On cholera, deaf and dumb, cataract, hernia, and stricture in urethra.

Cholera. Cholera, its eccentricities in all climates, in all ages, sexes, and conditions of life, and situations of locality, completely baffle human understanding and skill to divine how to check or prevent so dire a disease; unless in its cure by the use of the rejected and despised element nitrogen, which is ignominiously called "an excrement." If it can be supposed to be prohibited from atttacking London, or any other populous city, by a host of engineers, the same steps should be also adopted in climates that are quite different from our own. It appears to be a scourge that is diffused at unaccountable times, and in all seasons, throughout the chief extent of civilised land. Its existence without a marked cause after death is also a mystery to us, unless we can appreciate successful practices of fifty years, according to three printed prescriptions (herewith enclosed), containing nitrogenous medicines, without mercury.

Very analogous success is adduced in the solution of the lens by the aqueous humour. How this takes place we know not. Chemists have not divined the cause of dissipating the opacity of carbonate of lime in the lens, or of rendering the hardened lens soluble. These are physiological points in medicine and surgery not to be controverted, or elucidated by anatomy or chemistry.

Deaf and Dumb. Deafness is easily detected at four months old; so that if deafness and dumbness should come on after, the cause must be attributed to disease of the organs from infantile diseases, which require to be treated before the disease gets into a chronic or incurable state, which would preclude all chance of success.

The idea of all cases of deaf and dumb emanating from intermarriage of first or second cousins is preposterous, when disease has been palpably pointed out and cured, as before stated, when hearing and speech have resulted.

Cataract. Cataract is an opacity of the capsule of the lens and of the lens itself, arising in the general without any known cause. There are four kinds; viz., milky, soft, hard, and membranous.

Mr. J. C. Saunders' plan of solution in the infant is found to be successful in the adult, in every case connected with the lens and the capsule.

Hernia. Hernia is a displacement of bowels of different parts from their natural position, having different names, according to their locality. A stricture is formed at the neck, where the bowels emerge from their situation. This stricture is marked around the bowel; the mark of a ring is always seen on the bowel; this ring is caused by pressure of another isolated body,—*i.e.*, the adjoining cellular tissue,—which has mechanical effect on the bowel, like the ring on a finger, whereby congestion of the bowel is produced, and gangrene is the result of congestion. It is not inflammation of the bowel: there is no adhesion of the ring to the bowels or finger, except from continued inflammation in chronic cases of hernia. The congestion of blood is relieved by cold water or ice; thereby pain and distension of vessels are lessened, when reduction by the taxis is easily effected.

Where hernia happens, the patient is generally far away from a hospital and convenience of a hot-water bath. The first surgeon at hand should be instructed to employ the most active and immediate means—viz., cold water in a bladder externally, and, by enema, internally, which constrict the blood vessels; thereby congestion is removed, and the hernia will be often reduced by its own efforts, or by slight use of the taxis. The congestion of a finger caused by a ring would not be removed by a warm bath. The surgeon would not cut off the finger, or the ring; neither should he cut the bowels, nor the stricture.

Disadvantages of present plans: Ignorance of the first surgeon at hand, therefore delays, and, frequently, a long tedious journey for the poor; or no convenience for hot water bath, or not sufficient hot-water, or parboiling the patient, besides the danger, after the knife of exposing the delicate bowels to manipulation and to cold air, which causes numberless deaths, even under the direction of the most skilful surgeons.

Stricture. Stricture in urethra causes retention of urine, by the closing of the urethra at two or three different parts of the canal. There are several kinds, arising from various causes.

Inflammation, and its consequences, are the chief for our consideration. If inflammation of the mucous membrane causes stricture, the whole length of the canal would be liable to stricture. Such is not the case; therefore we look for the cause of stricture exterior to the mucous membrane, as in goitre. The external swellings to the passage must naturally cause pressure, or stricture.

The enlargement, or inflammation, is subdued by local applications and internal medicines, as in goitre, so that the passage is relieved when the urine passes freely without a catheter, the cause of stricture being entirely removed.

Whilst we know the anatomy and physiology of cataract, hernia, and stricture in uretha, we need not, as it were—

Open the works of a watch to wind it up;
Neither kill the goose for the sake of the egg;
Nor cut open the bellows for the sake of curiosity;—

the present operations for hernia* and stricture being often performed when, by delays and age, there is little or no chance of success.

Instruction to the living may be set forth; but this idea will soon vanish if due attention is paid to the physiological views laid down. Futhermore, it is contended that a prized student of anatomy and of chemistry might be thoroughly ignorant of the physiological points herein set forth; therefore physiology is a new branch of educational knowledge, fitting for the benefit of public health.

By WILLIAM PARKER, M.R.C.S., L.A.C.

3rd October, 1857; 27, *Daniel Street, Bath.*

	Cases operated on.	Deaths.	Successful.
* See *Medical Times and Gazette*, 31st Jan., 1857 ...	25	14	11
" " 10th Oct., 1857 ...	30	20	10
	55	31	21

From the "North Devon Journal," December 1st.

To the Editor of the "North Devon Journal."

Sir,—I observed in the *Times* of September 27th, a letter from Mr. W. Herapath, of Bristol, the celebrated analytical chemist, on the "Austrian Specific for Cholera." He gave his analysis of one fluid ounce, as follows:

Sulphuric acid (density 1.845)	19.07 grs.
Nitric acid (density 1.500)	11.31
Gum and sugar	23.62
Water	407.50
	461.50

It appears this remedy was allowed to be used by the Austrian authorities (in 1831—32) on the persons of some of the criminals, and that the result was a recovery in every instance.

On turning over an old memorandum-book a few days since, I found the following recipe, which was copied from some public print in 1832, when cholera first made its appearance in this country, and I was struck with the similarity to the Austrian specific:

"Cholera Morbus.—From a letter of Mr. Thomas Hope, Surgeon, Hospital Ship, Canada, River Medway, May, 1831, wherein he asserts the following recipe to be almost a specific in Cholera Morbus, in a 30 years' practice, and gives the following proof:—'I was Surgeon of the *Dolphin* in the year 1825, between the 17th and 26th of July in that year. I had 264 cases of cholera from which (with the exception of 16 being under treatment for three days, four patients demanded attention for four days, and three for five days) every patient was restored within the space of 53 hours. One who had been previously ill demanded longer attention. The remedy I gave was of—Nit*rous* acid, one drachm (not nit*ric*, that has foiled me); peppermint water or camphor mixture, one ounce; tincture of opium, 40 drops: mix. A fourth part to be taken every three or four hours in a cup full of thin gruel. The belly should be covered with a succession of hot cloths dry; bottles of hot water to the feet, if they can be obtained; constant and small sippings of finely-strained gruel, or sago, or tapioca; *no* spirits—*no* wine—*no* fermented liquors till quite restored.—Thomas Hope, Surgeon.'"

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

GILBERT KNILL COTTON.

Barnstaple, November 30th, 1853.

N.B.—I do not venture to give an opinion myself on an universal remedy for any specific disease, but have merely compared the two statements of 1831 and 1853.

To the Right Hon. Sir Benjamin Hall, Bart., President of the General Board of Health.

27, Daniel Street, Bath; 6th Sept., 1854.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a letter, dated 5th instant, from your Secretary, in reply to my application of the 4th instant. I herewith forward, as requested, the prescription and plan used by me for the cure of Cholera:—Saturated Solution of Muriate of Ammonia, 1 oz.; Saturated Solution of Alum, 1 oz.; Dillwater, 1 oz.; Strong Infusion of Coffee, 1 oz.; Camphor Mixture, 4 ozs.; mix: a teaspoonful to be taken every ten minutes. A teaspoonful of strong Infusion of Coffee to be taken at intervals, which will allay thirst. Beef-tea made as follows:—Lean beef cut into thin slices, pound of; table salt, tablespoonful of; black pepper, ground, tablespoonful of; grits, two tablespoonsful of; boiling water, quart of; the whole to be put into an earthenware jug and kept near the fire and covered; in half an hour a tablespoonful to be taken, when the stools have subsided for an hour or two, and repeated every half hour until the stomach can relish solid food. Abstinence from wine, spirits, beer, sago, and gruel.

Lotion for the sick room, to be kept in a saucer:—Solution of Chloride of Lime, 1 oz.; Common Vinegar, 1 oz.; Camphor Mixture, 6 ozs.: mix.

Further particulars of treatment, &c., comprised in my short and plain Treatise on Cholera, I left in the hands of Mr. Tom Taylor on the 16th ult., with other papers, for your consideration. I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM PARKER.

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